Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF August 19, 2002 TO August 23, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Manufacturing Shipments	June			Canadian manufacturing shipments remained relatively flat in June, decreasing only 0.1% from May. Most of the decrease was the result of a slow wood industry caused by U.S. softwood lumber duties. Excluding wood, manufacturing shipments increased 0.4%. Declines were reported in British Columbia (-3.6%), New Brunswick (-2.2%) and Manitoba (-2.0%). Increases were lead by Newfoundland (14.3%), Nova Scotia (6.9%) and Saskatchewan (4.2%) .
($ millions)				
Alberta	3,383	0.1%	-6.4%	
Canada	43,215	-0.1%	0.8%	
Consumer Price Index	July			The Canadian CPI rose 0.5% in July. The Increase was largely due to alcoholic beverages and tobacco (4.4%). From June 2001 Canadian CPI was up 2.1% - again, due largely to a 22.5% increase in alcoholic beverages and tobacco.
(1992=100)				
Alberta	124.1	0.0%	2.1%	
Canada	119.6	0.5%	2.1%	
Retail sales	June			Canadian retail sales increased 1.8% in June, following a 1.1% decrease in May. Declines in drug and patent medicine stores (-0.5%) and furniture sales (-0.3%) were offset by increases in clothing (5.4%), automotive (1.6%) and food (0.8%) sales. Ontario (3.2%), Alberta (1.3%) and Manitoba (1.3%) posted the largest increases. Prince Edward Island (-5.6%) and Nova Scotia were the only provinces to report declines.
($ millions)				
Alberta	3,154	1.3%	9.1%	
Canada	25,639	1.8%	6.2%	
Wholesale Trade	June			Wholesale trade in Canada remained stable in June at $34.5 billion. Despite this pause, growth in the first half of 2002 was strong with the first and second quarters increasing 2.1% and 2.4% respectively. This was the first time since the second half of 1999 that wholesale trade experienced two consecutive quarters of increases over 2.0%.
($ millions)				
Alberta	3,472	0.6%	-0.3%	
Canada	34,501	0.1%	3.7%	